



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32212-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

15 JUN 2001

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY STATEMENT ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

***Safety, both operational and personal, is a shared responsibility.*** The message is simple and as old as the Navy itself: leaders take care of their military and civilian personnel. That duty is all encompassing, touching almost every aspect of our personal and professional lives. Leaders take responsibility for the actions and omissions of the men and women they lead, on duty and off, to an extent that is unique to military culture. They actively concern themselves with their peoples' physical and mental well being, training, personal readiness, and family readiness. It is evident that conditions, practices, and habits posing a threat to their safety must be sought out and eliminated by leaders.

To that end, my policy is to maintain a safe and healthful workplace for all personnel by using the principles of the process review and measurement system. In addition, qualified OSH personnel inspect all workplaces at least annually and identified hazards shall be eradicated as quickly as possible. Where these hazards have not been eliminated, notices shall be posted to warn personnel, and interim protective measures implemented until they are. Facilities, systems, and subsystems shall be reviewed prior to construction and procurement to ensure OSH hazards are eliminated or controlled. All mishaps will be thoroughly investigated, with findings and recommendations made known to personnel to prevent similar mishaps. Qualified personnel shall implement comprehensive occupational health surveillance programs, in both medical and industrial hygiene.

Supervisors shall establish an organizational culture emphasizing the importance of safety. They will do this by a continuing educational process that cultivates a safety consciousness in every member of the command. They will enforce policy. Supervision and enforcement can prevent most mishaps. Supervisors will constantly assess risk, seeking to accomplish the mission while protecting their people. When the risk outweighs the benefits, they will seek other means of accomplishing the mission. Supervisors must reinforce this habit everyday, in every environment by being proactive in safety.

To reinforce the actions of supervisors, all hands, regardless of grade or billet, must be mindful of safety concerns. Personnel will receive appropriate safety training, and comply with applicable safety standards. Personnel must report suspected hazards, and do so without fear of reprisal. With safety, moral courage is required: the fortitude to step forward and speak up when an unsafe act or condition threatens harm. Such moral courage is an essential character element. It will be a part of our institutional identity. And employees shall have a standard of comparison to measure performance in meeting NAVOSH requirements/objectives.

In keeping with my philosophy that we always try to do the right thing, I expect and require all of you to act appropriately in exercising your individual safety responsibilities with the goal of eliminating preventable mishaps. Through responsible risk management and safety awareness we will accomplish this mission. I will settle for nothing less.

M. S. BOENSEL  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Commanding Officer